

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03

SCI-06 NASA-04 EB-11 OTPE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5478

INFO SEC DEF IMMEDIATE

CNO IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTEL IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NAPLES IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: SATELLITE GROUND TERMINAL AT LAGO DI PATRIA

REF: A. STATE 116988

B. ROME 7688

C. STATE 118481

1. MFA NATO OFFICE CALLED EMBOFF ON JUNE 20 TO INFORM US THAT TWO PROBLEMS HAD ARISEN WITH THE SECURING GOI APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION OF AN/M/SC-60 (MOD) FLEET SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTER AT THE NATO COMMUNICATIONS SITE AT LAGO DI PATRIA. THESE PROBLEMS APPEAR TO RULE OUT ANY CHANCE OF MEETING THE SCHEDULED INSTALLATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF JUNE 27.

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2. THE FIRST PROBLEM IS THAT A NEW CIVIL AIRPORT FOR NAPLES

IS PLANNED FOR AN AREA NEAR LAGO DI PATRIA, AND THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS MOST RELUCTANT TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR THE STAELLITE GROUND TERMINAL FOR FEAR OF RADIO INTERFERENCE WITH TOWER OPERATIONS UNTIL THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE HAS COMPLSGED TECHNICAL STUDIES RELATED TO THE SITING OF THE AIRPORT. (THESE STUDIES ARE UNDERWAY, BUT ARE LIKELY TO TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO COMPLETE.) THE ITALIANS RECOGNIZE THAT OUR ASSURANCES, REGARDING POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE, TRANSMITTED IN OUR NOTE VERBALE OF JUNE 5 WOULD GOVERN IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, BUT DO NOT WANT A SITUATION TO DEVELOP WHERE WE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO DISMANTLE THE TRANSMITTER ALTOGETHER. NOR DO THEY THINK WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE SUCH A RISK.

3. THE SECOND PROBLEM IS THAT A NEW ITALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW REQUIRES THAT A SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT - TO - GOVERNMENT AGREE-
MENT BE NEGOTIATED FOR INSTALLATIONS OF THIS NATURE, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE OPERATED BY THE MILITARY. THE MFA OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT WE ADD THE NEW TRANSMITTER TO THE BIA LIST OF AGREED FACILITIES. EMBOFF RESPONDED THIS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE SINCE WHEA IN QUESTION IS UNDER NATO, NOT US, JURISDICTION. EMBOFF SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES REFERRING TO THE BIA BE PREPARED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW LAW. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THIS APPEARED TO BE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. (COMMENT: IF THE DRAFTING IS LEFT TO THE ITALIANS, THIS COULD BE A TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS. WE WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON-PREPARED DRAFTS; OTHERWISE, WE WILL PREPARE THEM HERE. PLEASE ADVISE.)

4. THOSE PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED WITH CINCUSNAVEUR DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO ROME. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THE DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, OPNAV, WOULD SEND A TEAM TO ROME TO REVIEW WITH THE ITALIAN MOD THE INTERFERENCE PROBLEM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO SET UP A MEETING THE FIRST OF THIS COMING WEEK. WILL ADVISE. CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO INFORMED US THAT UP TO TWO MONTHS' ADDITIONAL TIME BEYOND THE JUNE 27 DEADLINE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE THE TWO PROBLEMS. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO MEET THE NEW DEADLINE.
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